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Our Paper 03/1991

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OUR PAPER

A VOICE FOR LESBIANS

AND GAY MEN IN MAINE

VOL 8 NO 7

MARCH

1991

PRICELESS



by John David Ober

For three hours recently I shared in the remembered pain, the struggles for understanding, the personal stories of grief and love and reconciliation, the efforts to reach outward and to help others, and also the laughter of a poignant moment or two in the complex lives of these people, brought together by the singular fact that their sons or daughters had "turned out" to be gay or lesbian.

As their personal stories unfolded, one by one, I came to see more clearly than I had before just how much suffering is caused in our society by the pervasive atmosphere of homophobia. I had long been aware of both the tacit and overt discrimination, harassment, and violence inflicted on lesbians and gays; but I had never stopped to consider what the fact of having a lesbian or gay child could do to a parent.

"I've really come a long way in six years," says Sally De Bor, one of the founding members of the Maine Chapter of the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, or PFLAG. The organization now has more than 200 chapters throughout the United States and in six other countries.

For De Bor, the following true story is an excellent indication of just how far human beings can go in learning to tolerate and even to learn to like one another in

spite of sexual orientations that vary widely:

Several years ago I attended a PFLAG convention in Washington. On the way home I stopped in Philadelphia to see my son Chris, who was in college there. He took me to a Halloween party where I not only had my first full-fledged encounter with drag queens, but I wandered into the

F.E. Pentlarge, another founding member of Maine PFLAG, recalls that she had always considered herself to be fair, open-minded, and liberal on the subject of sexual orientation. "Of course, what that usually means," she adds, "is that gay is all right, but not in my family." (It's a little bit like the definition of a conservative as "a liberal who has been

tance, and I'm still working toward feeling one-hundred percent comfortable with the situation."

Pentlarge summarizes her reactions to the news under three headings — First, she blamed her gay son, Daniel, and engaged in denial: "You're just doing this to get even with me." Second, she castigated herself: "What did I do wrong? Where did I fail?" To this was added the feeling that Daniel's father was even more to blame: "Your father certainly did something wrong!" Third, Pentlarge began to look for an escape hatch: "Don't worry. We'll get you a good psychiatrist."

Slowly and painfully, Pentlarge began to take steps to resolve the crisis, mostly by confronting it and learning all she could about the subject. Eventually, she met the De Bors, helped to start PFLAG in Maine, and became active in supporting legislation for gay rights both in Augusta and in Washington.

"I even took courses in counseling," Pentlarge adds, "In retrospect it is astonishing how these courses carefully avoid the taboo subjects of homosexuality and masturbation."

Today, Pentlarge, the De Bors, and several other members of Maine PFLAG appear wherever they can to distribute packets of information and to speak before college, religious, or civic groups in an effort both to fill the void with correct data and personal stories and to counteract the aura of fear and hatred.

continued on page 10

PFLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Maine Chapter:

Call Sally De Bor at 729-0519 or
F.E. Pentlarge at 623-2349

Services Available:

- ▶ Monthly meetings in Brunswick and Augusta of support groups made up of parents, relatives, and friends of lesbians and gays.
- ▶ Packets of helpful pamphlets are available from PFLAG as well as sensible, sensitive, and friendly advice for young people who are unsure about coming out to their parents.

library of the house where the party took place and made favorable comments about a couple of familiar titles like the *Homosexual Matrix* and *The Front Runner*. Soon after, some of the guests asked my son, "Who is that dyke you brought to the party?" I might not have always found that episode amusing, and it was then that I knew just how far I had come.

mugged.")

When Pentlarge's son Daniel came home from college and told her, "Mom, I'm in love and his name is Chuck", the bottom dropped out of her life. "I actually vomited that first night," Pentlarge remembers. "Then I went through the classic phases of guilt, self-hatred, rationalization, and blame. Everything but accep-

Next Month's Feature --

Peaceful people --

Nonviolent reactions toward a violent situation . . . (Deadline March 15)

Letters --

Dear Our Paper:

Eric Orner's The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green is the best hand-made visual you've ever run to my recollection. Congratulations! You're all GREAT.

Sincerely,
Carlo Pittore
Bowdoinham, ME

Dear Our Paper:

I read The Straight and Narrow by Holly Valero in January 1991's OP ("Lesbian Phone Sex") and loved the story and her style of writing. I would, however, like to make a few remarks about her, her thoughts, her life...etc.

The title itself reminds me of the day my sister and I were talking about a home town boy who had been married, had children, divorced and decided to "cross over". Now this man had decided to live with his lover and my sister said to me, "The divorced man is the one that's straight, right? Cause after all, he's been married."

I AM YOUR TOTALLY, WELL-ADJUSTED woman, wymyn, woomun...(My lover has just read this...she said no, no, no, I am hers, not yours....) I intended it to be just a sentence structure...nothing personal.

The reason they suggest going beach-walking is, either to see what you look like in a bathing suit before they get "personal" with you or to see what kind of person you are, like you might have handcuffs (hard to hide in a bathing suit)...so the beach is a safe place to walk, daylight, with lots of people (and of course

with us old folks, the beach and daytime is good for us — we don't nod off as quick in the bright sunlight!)

The reason they want to picnic is to see what kind of a cook you are...there are good cooks (I have one of those), bad cooks, gourmet cooks, down-home cooks, and health-food fanatical cooks...just to name a few. Any well-adjusted _____ could figure that one out!!!

We loved your column! But I too, am a wimp and with my luck, if I made a copy of "The Note", I'd probably leave the original copy of the note in our public library copying machine or I'd lose "The Note" walking down the school corridor picking my kid up after school...and God, then the whole world would know I am a "you know what". But until I got to know if she had a jealous husband and/or lover,

Editorial --

By Tim Grover

This month, OUR PAPER deals with the issue of coming out, emphasizing the unique connection of parents and friends -- our extended family. In this issue, Chester Munroe's personal article reflects on what coming out was like for him. We can clearly see that the act of coming out to one's family is a difficult one and each person's approach is slightly different, as is the response.

For many of us, coming out to our families is the first step to coming out to ourselves and the greater public as a whole. We choose our families because it is nurturing and supportive. We all know that safety and support is not a "given" when coming out to the greater public, be it having your checks signify two persons of the same gender sharing an account, or a same gender dependent named as an insurance beneficiary. Coming out may also take the form of demanding one's protection from bigoted landlords, employers, or bankers. If only we were assured the protective and support environment by the general public that we frequently get from families and friends.

Within the next few months, we will have this support and protection from discrimination put to the test, once again, by the Maine State Legislature.

In this issue's article by Kevin Cassell, the equal rights and protection we demand are not in our hands. OUR

PAPER would like to issue a challenge to our readers to take advantage of "the bridge between the gay and straight" world -- as stated in our feature article on PFLAG by F.E. Pentlarge -- all the way to the state legislature.

For this bill to pass, we need to build the courage to again come out to our parents and friends and make them realize the appalling amount of discrimination and gay-hatred we face on a regular, daily basis — through this we can one day put an end to this institutionalized homophobia.

My challenge is this: Pledge the support of three straight adults, be they parents or friends, to call their legislator and "come out" in support for their son or daughter or friend.

For inclusion in our current world, we must constantly gain and maintain continuing support. It's just a little easier with help from our friends who have learned to accept us by adjusting their outlook on sexual orientation.

The "Act to Prevent Discrimination", L.D. 430, will begin to heat up with our opponents — some of them parents and friends of OUR parents and friends. Let's broaden our circle of support.

We must now give OUR family and friends the support they need to "come out" to their legislators. They need all the support we can give because, as we all well know, coming out is a difficult thing to do.

I'd meet her at the beach 'cause we all know that gay people never meet at the beach!

I've been happy for fifteen years with my gay mate...my lover (one and the same) and would like to come out of the closet, but I am a wimp, as I said before. My family all knows I am happy and gay. I guess it's because there are so many crazy people out there that I don't want my house burned or my car smashed. I am totally happy loving my sweetie at home, under the covers, in the closet, or in the spa...but...it is nice to go to a gay friend's house and show off my lover to others and just be myself.

We tried last week to go to a gay club in Portland...we parked outside at 7:30 pm watching who went inside...all we saw were men...when I started dozing off at 8:30, my lover said we should head for home for it would be another two hour's

drive and we were usually in bed by ten.

Do you suppose there could be a club for "older" folks so we could have a night out and not have to stay up all night? Who said it had to late hours to have a good time? We just start early in the day! How about a gay grand-mother's club? That would be fun, too!

Well, maybe someday when we've had an early nap we'll make it to "The Club" in the Big City... thanks for Our Paper, we really do enjoy it!!!

Sincerely,
VERY HAPPY AND VERY GAY!!!
(Like everything else we do, we did this together.)

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OUR PAPER

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PURPOSE

OUR PAPER is published monthly by the OUR PAPER volunteer collective. Our purpose is to serve as a voice for Lesbians and Gay men in Maine. We wish to be a source of information, support, and affirmation, and a vehicle for celebration by and for members of the Lesbian and Gay communities. We want OUR PAPER to reflect our communities diversity as well.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We will consider for publication any material that broadens our understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. Views and opinions appearing are those of the authors only. We request that all material submitted be signed and include an address and/or phone number.

We reserve the right to edit material as necessary, unless otherwise instructed. Within the pages of OUR PAPER, articles can appear anonymously, upon request, and strict confidentiality will be observed. Editorials appearing in OUR PAPER represent the opinion of the Collective's Editorial Board as a whole.

We welcome and encourage our readers to submit material for publication and to share comments, criticisms, and positive feelings with us. We meet the first Sunday of every month at 6:30pm.

Remember, OUR PAPER is YOUR PAPER.

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READERS, and indebted
to OUR ADVERTISERS

Why Do You Like Boys?

by Chester Munro

I'm writing this wishing I had a happier coming-out story to tell. For the longest time, I thought my mother and I were the best of friends, but currently we are not speaking and haven't been for eight months. Let me start at the beginning.

I was fourteen when I finally was able to attach the term "gay" to myself. At the time, I was involved in a very fundamentalist, born-again religion and knew this wasn't going to go over real great with my mother. Through a discussion with another student at school, the school officials were told this personal information and, lacking any respect for my intentions, immediately notified my mother. They brought my mother and me into a school meeting where they told her that I "should seek professional help."

My mother was devastated and I was terrified about what was going to happen to me next. The Sunday before, our pastor had told the congregation that if he was walking down the street and a known homosexual was on the same side of the street as he, he would cross over to the other side just to ensure that the "evil spirit" didn't get anywhere near him. My mother's reaction was similar. She prayed over me with her hands on my head as she asked God to send this "evil spirit" away from me. I was also feeling desperate. I begged God to take away the "evil spirit" in me. I thought I had done something to make me this way and that God hated me. After this prayer session, though, I didn't feel any differently.

The summer of my sixteenth year I met Eric, a guitarist from the Bangor chapter of our church. We had a relation-

ship which ended after three months without my mother ever knowing — or so I thought.

In November of the same year, my mother searched my room and found a letter from Eric. I was sitting in school study hall when I was called to the office. I couldn't imagine what the problem was until I got to the office and saw her there. She very loudly announced that she had found a "sick and perverted" letter and that she had been to the doctor's to get sedatives. Her parting words to me, in front of everyone in the office, were, "Why do you like sucking boys' penises?"

I was devastated. I felt guilty, shamed, and absolutely horrified that she had blurted that out to everyone within earshot of the office. I did not go home until very late. When I finally arrived home, I found all my things packed and on the front porch. My mother had thrown me out at sixteen years of age with nowhere to go.

I spent the next three days and nights on the street. I slept in hallways from 2AM to 6AM. I spent the rest of the time walking from one convenience store to the next to stay warm. I was in a community theatre production at the time and one of the women involved in the show got wind of this and told me I could stay at her home until they could reach my father. They finally located him in South Portland and in January of 1988, I went to live with him and my grandmother.

My father's attitude toward me was the same as it always had been — indifferent. I started attending South Portland High School and, through a friend, dis-

covered Outright, an adult-led group dealing with acceptance and coming-out issues for young adults under the age of twenty-two. My God, what a breath of fresh air! I was so relieved to find out I was not this aberration of nature. I quickly made friends and started getting involved with one person in particular. I started spending whole weekends with this person which created the same family problems all over again, this time with my father. My mother had not told my father why she had thrown me out, so he had no idea just exactly who I was spending all my time with. I started coming up with different stories to explain my absence, but he didn't believe me. He threatened to follow me to school, work, and anywhere else I was going. I left him a note explaining why my mother had thrown me out and moved out of his house and into a friend's house.

I have tried to mend things with my mother since then. Until June of last year, it was even starting to go well. I had gone to spend a night at her house because I hadn't seen her or my sister in quite a while. During that visit, I had listened to a Madonna CD which contained an AIDS fact sheet. I had taken the sheet out, left it on the table, and forgotten it when I went out. When my mother found it, she flew into a tizzy, assuming I was trying to tell her (in a subtle way) that I had AIDS. She called her friend, who called me. I told my mother's friend to have my mother speak

to me in the morning and I would clear everything up.

Well, when I called my mother the next morning, she had totally gone off the deep end. She told me that no matter how much my roommate and I denied it, God had told her I had AIDS. At that point, I told her to never call, visit, or write again and hung up before she could finish. I haven't spoken to her since.

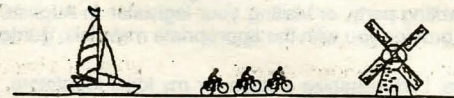
My father and I are doing better, though. Once in a while we go to dinner, and he always makes sure that I'm at least alive. I have to honestly say that my father has been more actively involved in my life recently than he has ever been before.

Although my coming out was an unpleasant experience, I did not share my memories to discourage anyone from coming out to their parents. Quite the contrary, I hope others can find in my story the strength to do the same. Some will get better results, some will not. Yes, I miss having a real family, and holidays are still sometimes a real hard time for me to go through. But I can honestly say that the pride and integrity I feel in myself for taking my stand for who I am is worth it. And the second family I've formed compensates (sometimes more than compensates) for the loss. The support systems are out there. So are the people. Just take a deep breath, gather your courage, and take the first step.

I did, and I survived!

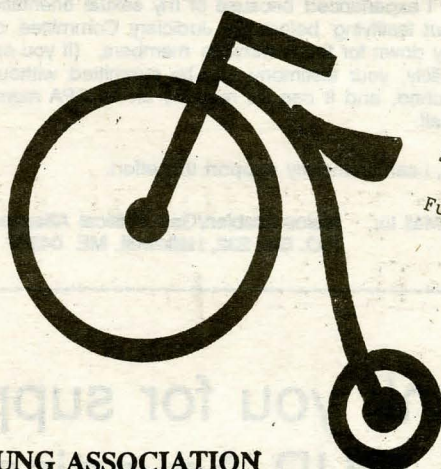
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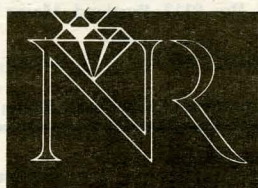
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Trash the Silence and Bash Back

by Kevin Cassell

I wish Jesus Christ were here today to address the leaders of the Christian Civic League of Maine. I suspect he would do so passionately, and speak in similar terms to what he is quoted as saying in Matthew 23:13: "Woe to you, religious leaders! Hypocrites! For you won't let others enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and you won't go in yourselves!"

Alas, He is not here, and I know why too; the time isn't right for a second coming. The Pharisee mentality still reigns supreme — and anyone with the gall to mobilize the homeless, or heal the AIDS victims, or bestow power on the disadvantaged would be expediently eradicated. And then everyone would feel guilty afterwards and start wearing gold electric chairs around their necks. No, the time isn't right.

That's because so many people these days are wrong. And the Christian Civic League is an establishment of many well-intentioned people who haven't yet seen through to the ultimate wrongness of the 1991 legislative agenda sponsored by their leaders. This agenda has one very specific target, which the CCL is determined to shoot down point-blank: LD 430 (entitled "An Act to Prevent Discrimination"), an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act which would make it illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit, and public accommo-

tions.

The CCL should have done more than give a standing ovation to its keynote speaker, Carl F.H. Henry, a leading Protestant theologian, who addressed the league's convention last year; they should have listened to him. Henry advised the audience to act in concert in society for specific goals, but to be careful to respect everyone else's right to speak and act freely in a free society.

They didn't listen one bit, as evidenced by their 1991 agenda, which regards gay rights legislation as "an unjust challenge to the legitimate moral and religious beliefs of thousands of Mainers and hundreds of our private institutions, including churches." Enforcing anti-discrimination measures, they say, would create "legal chaos." And they believe that, should the act become law, it would serve as a first step for a national movement intent on nothing less than "a total redefinition of family life."

Wrong, wrong ignorant bullshit. How can any kind of legislation designed to ensure unalienable (that is, "God-given") rights to thousands of taxpaying citizens be "unjust"? Since when do "moral and religious beliefs" that seek to deny such rights to living, breathing human beings gain the label of "legitimate"? What the hell is meant by "legal chaos"? And how does one "redefine" family life when there is no clear definition to begin with?

The CCL is an example of Pharisee mentality: We are right, you are wrong. Black and white. No in-between. Its leaders continue to promulgate the notion that the Kingdom of Heaven is something akin to middle-class suburbia, populated by archangels in ironed skirts and Windsor-knotted ties. A never-never land whose golden gates open to the righteous few and slam shut on the multitudes of others who do not fit into their perfectly pure, preposterously pious model of what a person "should be."

Face it: Opposition to this very humane, very democratic amendment is a seething example of "legal" gay-bashing. Each lesbian and gay citizen is an heir to the freedom we all have been paying for. Every two years since 1977 a bill aimed at protecting us from discrimination has gone before the legislature. It has won either the House or the Senate but not both at the same time, which means it is still not law. Last year it won the House but was defeated in the Senate. As the opposition breathes a sigh of relief, we sit back and silently accept this limited progress as "typical". Well, it's time to trash the silence and bash back. This means we will all have to work together to see to it that this bill finally becomes law.

This year LD 430 will again come before the Judiciary Committee, which is expected to send the proposal to the Legislature for a vote. The bill has four

sponsors — Rep. Pat Stevens (D-Bangor), Rep. Bill O'Gara (D-Westbrook), Sen. Barbara Gill (R-South Portland), and Sen. Gerry Conley (D-Portland—prime sponsor) — and is being supported, as always, by the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance. Diane Elze, former president of MLGPA, believes the increasing favorable response seen last year signifies that this year may be The Year. But the CCL is among a very vocal and oftentimes belligerent lobbying enterprise that views any small step for gay rights as a giant step for "immorality." They will not be silent. Will we?

If you or anyone you know have been the victim of, or have witnessed or have feared, discrimination because of your lifestyle, the MLGPA needs to hear your story. Share it. Diane Elze (774-6877) and present MLGPA president Ed Shannon (646-4872) have the connections, but they need support. You can also communicate your backing of the amendment by writing to your legislators and urging them to vote appropriately. We can win if we network. Ask your friends to write, your family members, anyone and everyone you know who is on the correct side of justice and freedom and democracy. We are not merely asking for our rights to be put down in print, where they must be; we are demanding it.

Yes, I will help with MLGPA's Legislative Agenda!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

If you are interested in sponsoring a tea for your local legislators, or a letter-writing party, or visiting your legislator in Augusta or at their home, we will provide you with the appropriate materials, guidance, and support.

- ☐ Yes, I will organize a team for my local legislators.
- ☐ Yes, I will organize a letter-writing party.
- ☐ Yes, I will be happy to personally deliver to my legislator a packet of information provided by MLGPA.
- ☐ Yes, give my name to a coordinator in my district. I can help with mailings and other activities.
- ☐ Yes, I have a story to tell about discrimination and/or violence that I experienced because of my sexual orientation. Call me about testifying before the Judiciary Committee or writing my story down for the committee members. (If you cannot appear publicly, your testimony can be submitted without your name attached, and it can be read by an MLGPA member on your behalf.
- ☐ Yes, I can financially support this effort.

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The Straight and Narrow by Holly Valero --

THE MIRRORED BOX

This is me before Nutri-Flab. This is me after. I lost the weight and I feel great. My husband says it's like falling in love with a different person! Oops! Gotta go! I think I hear the buzzer on the dryer!

I know several women currently dieting to lose weight. Most of them are not overweight. A handful are inches from anorexia nervosa; following a daily routine of starvation, diet sodas, nutrisweet, and malnutrition. Of those getting rid of a few extra pounds, only one really needs to lose the weight. Me. Why—aside from all the obvious reasons—do I think that? Because I am a woman. And like every other woman I came into a world that was desperate seeking boys, sons, fathers, and husbands. I came into a world where women were only validated by their ability to give birth to sons. I was not a son. I was tossed into the mirrored box to begin my training as a heterosexual woman.

The mirrored box. It looks like a dressing room, but feels like a prison cell. A cramped box lined with twisted two-way mirrors reflecting inwardly a constant barrage of splintered stereotypes and unrealistic standards. The exaggerated and ghoulish reflections of society, fashion, advertising, family, and tradition. Mirrors reflecting mirrors distort self-images beyond the point of recognition. They can see you, but you can't see them. In the box stands a woman, every woman, myself. The best part? This box comes with a door that is never locked. It doesn't have to be.

As a young lesbian I wandered the mirrored box. From corner to corner I searched for a spot I might call my own. A spot where the images were not so harsh, reprimanding, or comical. Maybe a blind spot where I could just be out of view.

The perfect heterosexual female is a slave with a driver's license.

Why do we, as women, joyously pass along the chains from mother to daughter? You must be pretty to land a man. I wasn't and ended up with your father...but I'm sure that you'll do better. You'll get on a diet sooner. We can only afford to send one of you to college. Your brother's grades aren't as good as yours, but he is our only son. Besides, you'll only be working as a secretary, stewardess, teacher, nurse, librarian, or maid until you get pregnant. I do hope you'll give us a grandson. Just don't get pregnant until you get married. You are a virgin aren't you?

The perfect heterosexual female was a slave with a driver's license. There was even a matriarchal respect given to those who put up with the most. You know, her husband was a

no-good, lying drunk who gave her nothing but misery, but she stayed with him till the end. The legacy of that woman upon her own death?

I don't know why she ever stayed with that man, he was a no-good, lying drunk.

A mirrored box carries the same legacy. She did everything she could to make heterosexual society happy and failed, but she never stopped trying! Why did she stay in the box if she was so miserable? The door wasn't locked. And so I left. I shut my eyes and ran my hands along the mirrored walls, searching for the door. Finding it, I stepped out. I had to see what freedom was like.

Late in the day, the haze and heat of an August afternoon rise slowly heavenward to comfort those chilly stars just on the other side of gravity. Evening blackens the sky and the universe gives birth to a profusion of stars. Out in the Pennsylvania country side I spent my summer nights scanning those tidbits of light looking for U.F.O.s. I'd stretch out on my back in the grass by the barn. The grass was a deep green, thick blades that were cool at one end and warm at the other. I'd fight off crickets and grasshoppers and moths for a good spot and then, armed with my mother's binoculars—the ones that were as powerful as a good pair of reading glasses—I'd begin my search.

What I loved most were the shooting stars. An impulsive streak of light dashing through the darkness. Even today I can't think of anything

else that captures for me the joy and essence of freedom. But just like a shooting star, I stepped out of the mirrored box to find that, within moments, I could no longer be seen by society. Looking around I saw other women like myself. Some fading away. Some all but gone. Most were slowly heading back toward the mirrored box. Toward identity. Any identity. I almost went back myself.

Life in a mirrored box changes the way you see things. Even without the box your eyes fight to maintain those mirrors and images. I watch the women around me everyday. They step out of the box and, losing themselves in the light of day, turn around and head back in. I know now what those women don't. I know that in time those feelings of emptiness pass. You

Women's issues are viewed as women's crimes. With society as the victim.

rediscover yourself and grow aware of just what it feels like to really exist as a person—not just an image in a mirror.

The ability to pass along a family name is purely coincidental to male custom. Illogical, too, when you realize that you may not know who the father

continued on page 17

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Business Profile --

Woodfords Cafe

by Paul B. Duff

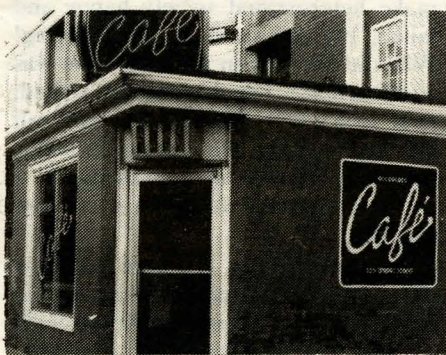
Located at 129 Spring St., Portland, Woodfords Cafe stands mid-way between the Holiday Inn and Mercy Hospital. A five minute walk from the Old Port, Woodfords maintains an unpretentious neighborhood feel that has insured its survival for eight and a half years now. If you've never been to Woodfords, I don't know what you're waiting for — Woodfords is definitely one of Portland's best and most affordable hang-outs.

Objectivity isn't foremost on my mind as I write this, since I, like many Mainers, have a long history at the Cafe. Back in the early eighties, as a sophomore in high school, I "discovered" Woodfords on one of my many jaunts into Portland. I quickly became a regular. My best friend Anna and I would trek weekly to Portland. We'd begin with dinner at the Cafe — invariably a burger for me and grilled cheese for her. Then we'd make a quick run to Ben and Jerry's for two hand-packed pints, which we'd take down the street to The Movies. Inevitably we would return to Woodfords after the film(s) for tea and dessert (the ice cream didn't count), while we passionately discussed whatever it was that we were passionate about that week. Anna always joked that many of the men at the Cafe were more interested in me than in her — I would blush and look at the floor. Ah, the good old days!

Back then, Woodfords was a one room cafe with bathrooms off an empty room to the side. The Cafe served the best homefries and burgers and always had six or eight scrumptious dessert choices. The crowd was a mix of Portland's funkiest, straight and gay; and Anna and I were particularly fond of the waitstaff, whose service was always slightly unpredictable but fun. Best of all, we were made welcome at the Cafe whether we came in for a three course dinner or only had enough money for tea.

After almost a decade, Woodfords remains much the same. The menu has expanded some and now includes nightly

specials and a salad bar. The burgers are still Portland's best from what I'm told, but I'm a vegetarian now so I make do with the Cafe's outstanding quiches, a yummy haddock burger or Anna's old stand-by, grilled cheese. Of course, there's always Woodfords "breakfast anytime" selections which are great after a night of



dancing. The desserts remain my weakness at the Cafe, and more often than not, I can be found with a slab of chocolate cake and a cup of mint tea next to my journal, as I "hang" in one of Woodfords' comfy booths. One big change at the Cafe is its relatively new bar. The Woodfords Cafe bar is located in a good sized room adjacent to the original Cafe (remember that empty room where the bathrooms were?). There are traditional bar stools, as well as cozy tables lining the walls — you can be as sociable or as reclusive as you like. The music is a bit louder than in the cafe, but certainly not deafening. With its bar, Woodfords provides a second alternative space for Portlanders to gather — it is neither as loud nor expensive as most of its counterparts. On St. Patrick's day, the bar will celebrate its first anniversary — so check it out!!

One of the most remarkable aspects of Woodfords is that the cafe and the bar complement, rather than disrupt, each other. Stephen Gervais, the owner of Woodfords, says that this is by design —

"There was no way I was going to let the bar detract from what was going on in the cafe." He says that it took some time after the bar first opened for it to settle in, but now it attracts a real nice group.

The block of Spring St. that includes Woodfords has also undergone some changes. Both Entre Nous and the Fairwinds, two neighboring bars, have gone under to be replaced by The Chartroom, a real cozy neighborhood bar, and an, as yet, unnamed restaurant. The two new establishments definitely enhance the character of the block, which formerly was a fairly rough area.

On my last two visits to Woodfords I've had the pleasure of getting to know "the man behind the Cafe." Stephen Gervais is hardly difficult to find since he works at the Cafe most days. His operating philosophy is real simple — quality food at reasonable prices in a comfortable atmosphere. He says the Cafe hasn't changed much because it hasn't needed to — I heartily agree. Stephen is pleased with the revitalization of the Woodfords neighborhood and hopes it continues. Despite the sagging economy, the Cafe's business is booming. I asked Stephen what was next for Woodfords — his answer was unexpected but understandable — "a

new owner or manager!" He doesn't plan to go anywhere immediately, but he'd like to go back to school for his PhD. Stephen is adamant that he won't turn the Cafe over to anyone who doesn't share his feelings about what it should be — the Cafe is a part of the neighborhood, he said, it would be in bad faith to knowingly let someone destroy it.

A few final notes: Woodfords is open seven days a week; Sunday through Thursday, 11AM to 11PM, and Friday and Saturday, 11AM to 2AM. The prices are really affordable. It's a great place for a first date. They have lots of herbal tea. I miss Anna who's living in LA. Call Stephen if you want a cafe. Call me if you want someone to sit with in a cafe. And if you are still reading this you are obviously malnourished, so head to Woodfords for chocolate cake immediately...

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Poetry --

THE WAYS OF LOVE

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The case behind, you clear the cobwebs, catch
The crook, and get out of a bind. You cut
The strings and sever ties and boldly latch
The door, you try to skip the pretense while
You try to make a score. The ways of love
Are like a game, two bettors run the mile,
And odds are never sure. You fit the glove,
And clean the slate, and checkmate all the moves,
You bet the ponies, pull the slot, and hope
Your number wins, the marble hits the grooves.
You feed the kitty, try to get the dope,
You make a strike with time to spare, and do
The town in red, and paddle your canoe.

Mary Ellen Beal

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LOVING ME FOR WHO I AM

by Lars LaDuke

Coming out to my parents was always something I'd wanted to do but I never thought I could accept the reaction or take the risk of losing them. I had heard that the holidays were the worst time to come out to your family, but by last Thanksgiving I felt I was ready, no matter what the results were.

I honestly didn't give a lot of thought to what I was going to say, but after dinner my knotted stomach and I sat down with Mom and Dad. I began by saying I had been working on being a better person and part of that was only telling people who I cared about that I am gay. I explained that there had been a long process of self-acceptance, and sharing with my family was part of my reassurance. I also talked about the anxiety I felt telling them.

They didn't scream or grasp their chests or die after my little speech. In fact, as I looked across the room, I wanted to say, "Did you guys hear what I said?"

Their response was quite the opposite of what I'd expected. My father, a man of few words, said he respected my honesty and courage for going through the hard times by myself as I had. Mother said that we all have to live our lives the way that makes us happy. It was an uplifting feeling and we cried and laughed about how easy it was, and how I didn't give them any credit for knowing about me before I came out to them.

I loved them before, for the people they were, and I love them now for being the people being they are — because they've always given me the same love and respect.

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Global Gayzette --

NGLTF Opposes Persian Gulf War

In a position paper authorized by its board of directors, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has opposed the Persian Gulf war. The impact of the war on domestic programs — especially diversion of funds and attention from AIDs and health care, among other crises — is cited as a major source of opposition.

NGLTF says gay and lesbian soldiers are also directly affected by the war. "The war highlights again the military's discriminatory policy against lesbians and gay men, and the role the military plays in perpetuating our second-class status....The Pentagon has told gay and lesbian soldiers they will be discharged (and denied all military career opportunities) if they are lucky enough to survive. It is hypocritical and insulting to expect us to support the military when it so blatantly exploits us."

San Francisco Passes "Domestic Partners" Ordinance.

Beginning on Valentine's Day, 1991, San Francisco's new Domestic Partners ordinance allows lesbian, gay, and unmarried couples to register their loving, committed relationships with the city. Couples registering their relationships at City Hall receive domestic partner certificates from the marriage license bureau.

Lesbian Legislator Favors Feminist Oath

New York State's first openly gay legislator is already breaking traditions in

the Assembly, according to the New York Times. Rather than taking her oath of office with her left hand on a Bible, Assemblymember Deborah Glick laid her hand on a copy of a 1970 feminist anthology called Sisterhood is Powerful. Glick represents the state district which covers Greenwich Village and lower Manhattan.

Knightship Flap in Britain

Midnight Cowboy director John Schlesinger, Cats producer Cameron Mackintosh, Room With A View actor Simon Callow, and 15 other leading actors, directors, and playwrights in Britain came out en masse in a letter to the editor of a London daily newspaper. Among those signing onto the letter, which began "As gay and lesbian artists," were British television actress Pam St. Clement and Queen Elizabeth II's portrait artist Michael Leonard. The letter defends openly gay actor Ian McKellan's decision to accept a knightship recommended by outgoing Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. (Guardian)

AIDS Commission Reviews South Florida Area

The National Commission on AIDS made two site visits in South Florida in February as part of its review of the HIV epidemic there. The National Commission is an independent body charged with advising Congress and the President on development of "a consistent national policy" concerning the HIV epidemic. South Florida, a high incidence area, faces epidemics among women, minorities, and infants.

Rights Bill Passed in North Carolina Town

The tiny town of Carrboro has prohibited discrimination against gays in city employment. The Carrboro Board of Aldermen unanimously agreed on December 18th to amend its employment policy to prohibit discrimination based sexual orientation. The town is located just west of Chapel Hill, which also has a policy prohibiting discrimination against gays. Board member Jacquelyn Gist, who introduced the proposal, said "it could make life easier" for gay applicants.

Campaign Started to Count and Counter Hate Crimes

A nationwide effort to document and counteract violence against lesbians and gays will be launched in March by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and community-based groups fighting the growing problems of homophobic harassment and attacks. The "Campaign to Count and Counter Hate Crimes" will encourage and assist local efforts to document anti-gay incidents, educate lesbians and gay men on how to resist violence, and advocate for vigorous official response to the problem. NGLTF will give its annual violence report as part of the campaign kickoff.

Amtrak Sued Over Benefits

Washington, DC - A gay employee of Amtrak is suing the national railroad because it won't give his lover a pass for

free travel like the ones it gives heterosexual spouses. Richard Wilson said the policy violates Washington, DC's gay-rights law. In a press release, NGLTF added that according to the US Chamber of Commerce, 40% of an employee's total compensation comes in the form of fringe benefits. NGLTF's Ivy Young said "employers must change their policies to match the reality of family life in this country." Amtrak does allow same-sex couples to purchase couple-discount tickets; this lawsuit tackles the railroad's employee-benefits program.

Pentagon Denies Policy Change

Defense Department officials last month denied that there had been any change in the Pentagon's policy regarding the immediate discharge of lesbian and gay military personnel because of the war with Iraq. Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Ken Satterfield said that service members who are found to be homosexual will be subject to "an administrative hearing in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice...as soon as feasible." Earlier, Satterfield was quoted by the San Francisco Chronicle as saying that during the Persian Gulf crisis, lesbian and gay service members may have discharge proceedings "deferred" due to "operational considerations" of the member's unit. The issue came to light when Army Reservist Donna Lynn told reporters that she had been told that her lesbianism would be ignored while her unit was deployed to the Persian Gulf, but that she would be discharged upon her return to the United States.

The following periodicals contributed to this month's "Gayzette": "Philadelphia Gay News, Wash., D.C. "Blade," and "Outlines" of Chicago.

THE MOSTLY UNFABULOUS SOCIAL LIFE OF ETHAN GREEN.

SURPRISINGLY, ETHAN'S ROMANCE WITH LEO SEEMS TO BE GOING WELL...

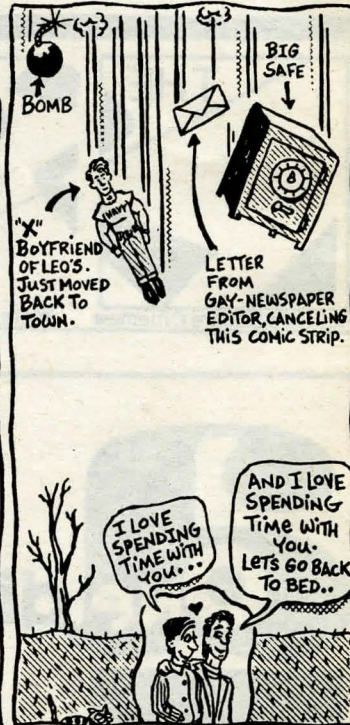


I'M THINKING THAT I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE REST OF YOUR MOO SHOO SHRIMP PUT IN A DOGGIE BAG SO THAT I CAN TAKE IT HOME AND EAT IT OFF YOUR NAKED CHEST IN BED.



MID-AFTERNOON THE NEXT DAY..

YOUR CAT SEEMS AGITATED ABOUT SOMETHING.. SHE KEEPS STARING UP AT THE SKY AS IF SHE EXPECTS SOMETHING AWFUL TO SWOOP DOWN OUT OF IT.



12/18 © 1990 E. ORNER.

Maine Gayzette --

RAM ISLAND DANCE COMPANY ANNOUNCES UNCOMMON SERIES OF DANCE PERFORMANCES

Ram Island Company launches a unique series of performances in March. The first performance of the four event series will be held in Barridoff Galleries, 26 Free Street, on Friday and Saturday, March 15 & 16, at 7:30 p.m.

The Portland-based company will present four different programs over

Lucinda Childs Dance Company. Writing in the *Village Voice*, NYC dance critic Burt Supree said, "McCusker's legs are so free and quick you'd expect to see little wings on his ankles."

At Barridoff Galleries the program will open with a solo "vantage point", choreographed and performed by Daniel McCusker in 1986 with original music by David Friedman. This dance is a fragment from a larger work that focused on shifting points of view, on comparisons, on contrasts, that "...is about community" (*Portland Press*



the course of the four event series. Following the Barridoff Galleries, performances are scheduled for Hobe Sound Galleries North on April 5 & 6, Dean Valentgas Gallery in May, and another venue yet to be announced. The Barridoff Galleries performance in March will include a new work, "who they are".

"who they are (variations on less space with fewer people, on more space with more people)" is a thirty-five minute work choreographed by Ram Island Dance Company artistic director Daniel McCusker. As it is performed around Portland this Spring, the piece will expand to a cast of fifteen at one point and contract to a group of four at another. As it expands it will accrue more visual complexity as the performing space is layered with simultaneous activity. When it contracts the piece will be reduced to its most essential qualities.

RIDC artistic director Daniel McCusker says, "I think of 'who they are' as a portrait of Ram Island Dance. It is a picture of the expanded family of this organization that is devoted to contemporary dance and speaks to what we value—new ways of experiencing the communicative value of movement."

McCusker was recently hailed for his performances at the October 1990 "Biennale de la Danse de Lyon (France)" with New York based

Herald) and seems like an appropriate introduction to the evening of dance.

All tickets at \$10. The first of the four event series is Friday and Saturday, March 15th and 16th, at Barridoff Galleries, 26 Free Street, Portland. Call Ram Island Dance at 773-2562 for more information.

Northern Lambda Nord Begins a Building Fund

At Northern Lambda Nord's December 16, 1990 meeting, an official building fund was established to raise money to rent meeting and party space for NLN's activities. The initial fundraising goal is \$10,000 (in US dollars). The fund's ultimate goal is to purchase a space which will house the lending library, phoneline, and office, and to serve as a regional community center where the regular monthly meetings and parties can be held. It would also serve as a regular drop-in

place for people new to the area or just passing through.

For additional information on donating cans, bottles, money, fundraising ideas, or time, please call the Northern Lambda Nord Phoneline at (207) 498-2088.

New Bicycle Club Forms in Maine

OutRiders Maine, a new bicycle club for gay men and lesbians, will start regular rides in April. OutRiders is a bicycle club for those with an interest in bike riding—level of experience is not important. The idea is to get together with other gay people on a regular basis to enjoy sharing exercise, the outdoors, and a meal.

OutRiders will gather in Portland at 6pm every Thursday evening starting April 11th (the first Thursday of daylight savings time) at the Back Cove parking lot across the street from the Shop & Save supermarket. We will bicycle for about an hour to an hour and a half, then finish up with a light snack or dinner at the Arby's restaurant on Forest Avenue. Bike routes will vary from week to week and there will be multiple distances to cover so that riders of every level are encouraged to participate. At least once each month, there will be a special longer ride on a weekend day that will take us to local areas of interest. If you have any questions, or need more information, please call 767-3825.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Group Now Meeting in Bangor

In January 1990, a Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual youth group was started in Bangor through the efforts of the Gay and Lesbian Community Network. The group is currently meeting weekly on Tuesdays at the Peace & Justice Center in Bangor.

The group is currently attracting an average of seven young people each week and is being led by volunteer advisors from the Gay and Lesbian Community Network. The group is in the process of choosing a name from the many excellent suggestions generated at the meetings.

Additional advisors are currently being sought to allow weekly meetings to continue. Additionally, financial contributions are being requested to help pay for refreshments, materials, etc. For more information contact Robin at (207) 866-7953 or write to the Gay and Lesbian Community Network (GLCN), P.O. Box 212, Bangor, ME 04401.

And please, tell young people you know in the area that there is a place for them!

Maine High Risk Insurance Organization Accepting Enrollees

The Maine High Risk Insurance Organization currently has over 200 open enrollment slots. The MHRIO is a health insurance plan initiated by the Maine Legislature. It offers health insurance to people who can't obtain sufficient coverage due to their medical conditions. The plan offers a standard indemnity policy at slightly higher premiums. In order to be eligible, a person has to be a Maine resident and be able to show evidence of rejection for insurance and non-eligibility for other health coverage programs.

Applications can be made directly to the plan administrator, Mutual of Omaha Company of Nebraska. Their phone number is 1-800-456-0224. For additional information, contact Deborah Curtis at the Maine Bureau of Medical Services, (207) 289-2674 or 1-800-423-4331.

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continued from page 1

Pat was the next to relate her personal saga. Her daughter, Victoria, is currently working on a Japanese fishing boat out of Alaska.

"I always thought I was pretty liberal," Pat laughs. "When I was in college in Hawaii, one of coffee klatch friends was a gay man. No big deal. Then about five years ago I discovered that Victoria is a lesbian. I completely collapsed, cried constantly, and crawled into bed for two weeks. I flatly denied the reality and blamed myself, the fact that our life had been hard, that Victoria's father had been absent too much. I even believed that one good man in my daughter's life would have made all the difference."

In desperation, Pat consulted her minister, who advised her: "Love your daughter and stick with her. She is very sick."

In the depths of despair, Pat went through a common, but painful, experience when she imagined that her daughter had died.

"I saw her, but it was as if she were dead. My incredible fear that Victoria would be hurt and rejected and that then I too would be hurt and rejected was so strong that it became easier somehow to imagine that she had just died."

For Pat, the process of acceptance was also slow and painful. Now she says that it is clear to her that Victoria is the most ethical of all her children, the one with the highest moral standards. What is more, by getting involved with PFLAG, Pat had discovered how grossly stupid most attacks on lesbians and gay really are.

"When I was in Augusta two years ago to speak for the gay rights bill, I started watching the faces of the opposition. So many of them had tight, pinched mouths, expressions of fear, lives without joy. I

must have reacted strongly when a minister from Windham tried to blame everything from teenage pregnancy to stealing on homosexuality. Someone gave me a solid whack on the arm."

Now that Victoria has left Maine. "I feel that I have lost a lot of good friends in Portland—her friends—and mine," says Pat wistfully, "but I do believe that our personal stories are a bridge between the gay and the straight worlds."

Gene De Bor grew up in Hungary in Eastern Europe, served in the United States Armed Forces in the Korean War, and worked in the area of special investigation of applicants for security clearance with the old Atomic Energy Commission and other government agencies. His personal

**"First, I know now
that homosexuality is
perfectly natural for
homosexuals; but I
also realize, the more
I see of it, that
homophobia is an
illness."**

hobby is reading about the origins of man, or paleoanthropology. It was to his father that Chris De Bor announced his gayness, the day after Thanksgiving in 1984.

"Perhaps because I am aware of the great variety of human experience and human behavior through my study, I was able to accept the news more readily than some people," Gene notes. "After the

SOME POINTERS ON COMING OUT TO PARENTS

1. Be as certain as you can that your sexual orientation really is lesbian or gay before involving your parents; and be sure that you are reasonably accepting of and comfortable with your own lesbian or gay sexuality.
2. Ask yourself the question: "Why am I coming out to my parents now?" If the answer is one of anger—or "striking back to get even"—of using your sexuality as a weapon, then it is better to wait and to seek help either from a support group like OUTRIGHT in Portland (207) 774-HELP (24 hours), or from some other friendly source.
3. Sally De Bor has learned that timing is crucial in telling your parents. As she puts it, "Don't come out in anger or by just blurting out the news. Don't bring the subject up during times of family illness or unusual stress. And don't come out in situations where a parent is drinking."
4. If your parents tend to be morally rigid or members of certain born-again of fundamentalist faiths, they may have more trouble accepting news of your sexual orientation than if they are flexible in their opinions.
5. "Never come out for someone else even, or especially, to family members," Sally De Bor suggests. Coming out must be your own decision and no one else's, and parents should avoid spreading the word without your express permission.
6. "Always have literature, information, a wealth of knowledge available to give to your parents," says De Bor. In a homophobic society like ours, it is important that parents have access to accurate information based on modern research.
7. "If you are financially dependent on your parents," Sally De Bor warns, "it is crucial that you cover yourself with alternative sources of income or wait to come out, unless you are certain in advance that your parents will not react so drastically as to cut off financial support."
8. "If you need help, for goodness sake call and ask for it," add F.E. Pentlarge firmly.

—John David Ober

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initial shock I told myself that Chris is still my son and I am not going to lose him."

Gene De Bor was far more worried about the treatment of lesbian and gay human beings than he was about gayness

"My knowledge of homosexuality wouldn't have filled a thimble. I knew the standard, clinical textbook definition and absolutely nothing else."

itself. As a man who had faced genuine political suppression in his life, he had great respect for the American tradition of live and let live.

"I was primarily worried about Chris' safety and future as a gay man," Gene says. Immediately after learning the news, he sent his son a supportive letter and proceeded to tell his wife Sally.

"When I heard the news, my responses were fairly typical," she admits. "One, are you sure? and two, it's all because we sent Chris to an all-male prep school. My knowledge of homosexuality wouldn't have filled a thimble," Sally reports. "I knew the standard, clinical, textbook definition and absolutely nothing else."

She suffered for a time from nightmares and felt as if her perception of the world kept shifting like a house built upon sand. When she decided to consult an interim minister at the family's church, he responded by telling a tasteless joke about

gays! Another minister to whom she tried to speak later on informed her that she didn't know what she was talking about. "I'm from Indiana," he said, "and there are no gay in that state and there were no families with gay members in any of my congregations." (The name of the state has been changed to protect the guilty.)

In the face of such unresponsive and irresponsible counseling, Sally read voraciously, not only the literature given her by Chris, but well beyond. In the spring of 1985, she and Gene, together with F.E. Pentlarge and Sharon Raymond (who is currently spending a year in England) founded the Maine chapter of PFLAG.

Sally says that she made one mistake in dealing with Chris's news that she would not repeat today: "I informed other members of the family — two of my four sons and my two sisters — that Chris is gay. You can't come out for someone else," Sally emphasizes. (See the separate list of POINTERS.)

When she speaks to groups, students, and clubs, Sally likes to remind her audience of two salient propositions:

First - I now know that homosexuality is perfectly natural for homosexuals; but I also realize, the more I see of it, that homophobia is an illness.

Second - It is worth remembering that the parents of homosexuals are heterosexuals.

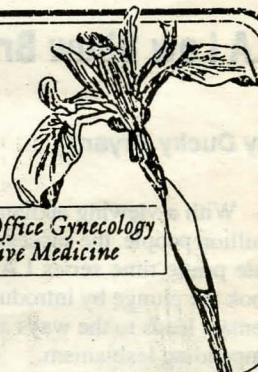
Articulate, proud of his parents, self-possessed, Chris De Bor remembers well that before he came out, he had grown very ill with viral infections, and a kind of spiritual malaise. "By the time I was 21, I knew that I had absolutely no choice in the decision to be gay or not; but I did have a choice of affirming or denying it. I have been much happier and healthier since I decided to say yes to what I am."

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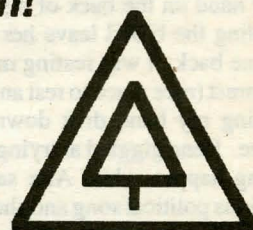
MLGPA needs several people like that to testify at a Legislative Hearing on the Civil Rights Bill this spring. We need people who have been victims of anti-gay discrimination with the courage to tell legislators their stories.

All the studies we can present and all the testimony by expert witnesses just doesn't have the impact of a person relating their experience. You can be an important part of this year's campaign to change the law.

If you have been victimized, or know someone who has been and can help us, please contact us.

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REVIEWS

LA Law Show Breaks New Ground

by Ducky Bryant

With a viewing audience of some 16 million people, the successful and articulate prime time series LA Law recently took the plunge by introducing two of its female leads to the ways and wonders of impending lesbianism.

In a sensitively drawn episode which aired February 7th, Abby Perkins and C.J. Lamb shared a warm, full-bodied hug after having successfully maneuvered yet another victory for their prestigious law firm. Caught up in the glow of triumph and sudden realization of a shared magnetism, both women kiss fully on the lips in a scene charged with excitement and

delicious discovery. Intrigued but confused, both women offer feeble disclaimers for their behavior, yet feel compelled to meet again to share a cozy evening.

What happens next is anyone's guess. Much will depend on commercial support and audience reaction. I, for one, have sent a letter of encouragement and congratulations to the production staff. Hopefully, many others will do the same. Stay tuned.

EDITOR'S NOTE - Please direct your comments to the following address: L.A. Law, c/o NBC TV, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

Aren't There Any Lesbians Who Play Cello?

by Marianne Pelletier

Rena called me a few days after we first met. "Marianne?" she asked. "Yes," I said. She hesitated. "I told you I'd call you in the middle of the week, and here it is." She said Alix Dobkin was playing at the University of Southern Maine and would I like to go?

I accepted and then said, "Wait a minute. Is this a woman and a guitar?" She said, "Yes, it is. Is that okay?"

So I told her about my experiences with women and guitars, most of whom were not quite polished and had a way to go, and I was quite sick of going to see them. Aren't there any lesbians who play cello? Then I said I'd love to go.

We went. I never saw so many people in one place wearing flannel shirts, jeans, and suspenders. A friend had told me Alix had only female audiences. Alix invited the heterosexual women to "Come out real soon." She sang lovely I-Wish-I-Had-A-Pair-Of-Scissors-For-Every-Man-I-Meet songs (but some nice ones, too.) And she was funny.

But Rena and I were busy trying to touch each other for the first time. She had her hand on the back of my seat, slowly feeling the blood leave her arm and not come back. I was resting my arm on the armrest (nice place to rest an arm), slowly letting my hand drift down toward her knee. Rena giggled at trying to make this thing happen while Alix sang her most serious political song and shot looks at us.

But we touched, held hands, smiled,

and sang along. Afterward, Rena wanted to take me to a nice restaurant she used to eat lunch at when she was a USM student. When we walked in, a set of four motorcycle riders ogled at us and then moved their helmets aside so we could take the table next to them. We sat facing the street but Rena steamed with embarrassment.

Then we watched, out of the restaurant's full-sized window, a girl in imitation leopard skins nearly strip her drunken self to get her drunken boyfriend's attention. Rena could barely eat, explaining that during the daytime, it wasn't like this. I wanted to take the girl home, but finally the boyfriend wrapped a tattooed arm around her and carted her off.

I'm a romantic, and when we stepped outside (with Rena smoking like a coal engine and venting embarrassment), I asked if we were near the ocean. "Yes, we are," she said, surprised to be dragged away from her mortification. "Makes me want to walk along the beach," I said, breathing deeply.

She happily drove me to Ogunquit. We disturbed a couple of men who were taking shelter in the fog. It was freezing out. Rena wrapped a reassuring arm around my shoulder while we walked. (Her tattoo is on her back.)

I wanted to stop and listen to the ocean but she took it as a sign to have our first kiss. Our lips were frozen, but it was nice. Later I tried again at watching the tide and got kissed again. It was still nice. It took us the whole ride home to warm up again.

Excerpts From My February 1986 Journal

by Peter Burgess

A radiant day; mild, but so blustery. (Winnie the Pooh was not available for comment.) Went to Kettle Cove after church. As usual, Richard Hasty's church service was very inspirational. It was high tide and there was a terrific gale. The sea was truly wild. I really have never seen the sea so rough. A hurricane sea it was. The surrounding scenery was bleak. Frozen red berries on the beach rose bushes were abundant. Even though it only seems minor, the sun has changed position some and is a little higher in the sky too. Today almost feels and looks like a Maine March day.

I long to work in a garden right now with acres of flowers; planting and designing and feeling the soil again. The seed catalogs are pouring in now from all the many different companies. It is grand to putter through the catalog pages and

visualize a garden design and its splendid flowers.

But winter, too, has its beauty. On driving back to Portland yesterday from a cross-country ski sojourn in Bethel, the county-side was truly beautiful. The white blanket covering the fields - the great hills - naked and snow-covered, but so visually strong and majestic. The great sunset behind the hills for many miles as I drove. Cross-country skiing was at its best. I was out for a while yesterday in the forests of the western mountains. Splendid!!! What an energy renewal...weather was cooperative and skiing conditions so excellent.

The best news is that now we will be moving out of the 'low light' period slowly, but surely. I miss that energy-charging summer sun upon the body.

Peter is an ardent nature buff and a free-lance garden/landscape designer

L²

Diving in the blueness,
of the oceans of your eyes.
Embrace of your winged
heave surrounds me,
profile to profile,
immersed in our liaison.
Currents shift, our manes
entangled in the tides,
gazing eye to eye.
Enthralled with desire,
soaked by the touch,
I hold on . . .
Bound to the bottom,
drowned by the welcome.

L. LaDuke '90

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Calendar --

HELP!!

HELP!!

HELP!!

Anyone possessing knowledge or experience in planning past symposia, or if you'd like to be involved in Symposium '91, please come to the organizational meeting March 10th at 4pm at 377 Cumberland Avenue in Portland. If you can't attend, but have information that would be helpful, please call 883-6934 and leave a message. Thanks!

March 1

Working with the Media. An ITV training for the Maine AIDS Alliance member organizations. Sponsored by the Maine Aids Alliance. Call Peaches Bass at (207) 236-8561 for more information.

March 2

Solutions Through Solidarity...Organizing for Change, March 2, 1991, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Winthrop Street, Augusta. Conference on training people to organize amongst groups, within groups, and amongst themselves for fundamental social change including overcoming heterosexuality. Conference includes workshops, poetry, music, and lots of discussion and interaction. Registration costs \$10.00, sliding scale. For more information, contact INVERT, P.O. Box 110, Stillwater, ME 04489.

March 3

Self Defense Workshop offered by the Rape Crises Center from 1:00 PM-5:00 PM. Workshop leader and black belt karate instructor, Lauretta Gregoire will cover: sexual assault awareness, personal safety, and risk reduction. Preregistered fee is \$25.00, at the door \$35.00. A limited number of scholarships are available.

March 7 & 21

Women's HIV Group will meet at an accessible location in Bangor from 7:00PM-8:30PM. For more information call (207) 667-3506, 469-6405, or 947-0700.

March 10

1991 Symposium organizational meeting will be held at 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland, at 4pm. Call 883-6934 for more information.

March 10

1991 Pride March planning meeting will be held at 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland, at 4pm to discuss details of this year's Pride celebration. Your help is needed. For more information, please call 883-6934.

March 12 & 26

HIV/AIDS Caregivers Group to meet at DEAN Office, 114 State Street, Ellsworth, ME, from 7:30PM - 9:00PM. For more information call (207) 667-3506 or 422-3686.

March 15

HIV/AIDS Prevention in the 1990's for the College Campus. University of Southern Maine, Portland. The speaker will be Dr. Richard Keeling, Chair of the American College Health Association. For more information call (207) 780-5370.

March 15 and 16

The Ram Island Dance Company presents new works in the first of a series of performances in local galleries. Tickets for all performances, which begin at 7:00 PM, are \$10.00. Presented at the Barridoff Galleries, March 15 and 16, 26 Free Street, Portland. For more information or reservations, call Ram Island Dance at (207) 773-2562.

March 15 & 16

Ram Island Dance Company, "Signs of Life" - Portland. At 7:30 p.m., the company presents new works in the first of a series of performances in local art galleries. All tickets \$10.00. Available at Barridoff Galleries, 26 Free Street, Portland. Call Ram Island Dance at 773-2562 for reservations of further information.

March 15, 16, 22, & 23

The AIDS Project is starting a training session for volunteers for the statewide AIDS hotline (daytime hours 9am-5pm). For more information, please call Cathy at 774-6877.

March 16

Holly Near with John Bucchino and special guest Jennifer Berezan. Presented by Wild Iris Productions on Saturday, March 16, 1991, at 8:00 PM at the First Parish Unitarian Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland, ME. Tickets available by mail, Wild Iris Productions, P.O. Box 17, West Buxton, ME 04093 (include a S.A.S.E.)

March 17

Special St. Patty's T-Dance, Sunday, March 17th, 3 p.m. thru 7 p.m. at The LIMELIGHT. To benefit the American Lung Association of Maine. Featuring D.J., special buffet, cash bar, fun and games. \$3.00 in advance; \$4.00 at the door. Tickets available at The LIMELIGHT or contact Dawn or Denise Gay, in Portland, at 207-878-5087.

March 23

Seacoast Gay Men are proud to present the first New Hampshire performance of the celebrated Boston Gay Men's Chorus, Robert Barney, Director. The performance will be held at the South Unitarian Universalist Church in Portsmouth, NH at 8:00 PM. For more information call (603) 898-1115.

April 5 & 6

Ram Island Dance Company, "Signs of Life" - Brunswick. At 7:30 p.m., the company presents new works in the second of a series of performances in local art galleries. All tickets \$10.00. Available at Hobe Sound Galleries, North, 58 Maine Street, Brunswick. Call Ram Island Dance at 773-2562 for reservations of further information.

April 5-7

A "Galya Weekend" for women of all ages will be held in New York City on April 5-7, 1991. For information on housing and transportation, write or call: SAGE, 208 West 13th Street, NYC, NY, 10011, (212) 741-2247.

April 24 -28

The National Lesbian Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA as a woman-to-woman gathering finding strength through diversity. The NLC is committed to safer and accessible space for all lesbians. Join us in celebrating the choice to relate across differences and enjoy wommin from all the various ways of lesbian lives. For more information, write to PO Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031.

April 27

AIDS Action and Activism

The University of Maine at Farmington and the Gay and Straight People's Political Alliance presents a 1 day conference on AIDS Action and Activism. Space is limited, cost is \$10.00. For more information call Dawn at (207) 453-4075 or write to UMF G.A.S.P., 5 South Street, Farmington, ME 04938.

May 1

Second Annual Mid-coast Sexuality Education Symposium, in Camden. For more information call Mary or Lisa at the Mid-Coast Family Planning Center, (207) 596-8655.

May 1991

YES!!! It's true!!! The Maine Gay and Lesbian Film Festival lives!! We are beginning to organize for the May 1991 Festival and would love some help. Please bring yourself and/or a friend to our next open meeting. For more information, call (207) 828-4714.

EMERGENCE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS SUPPORTING LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

Emerge!, a healing journal of EMERGENCE International, Christian Scientists supporting lesbians and gay men. For subscriptions and information write P.O. Box 581, Kentfield, CA 94914, or call (415) 485-1881.

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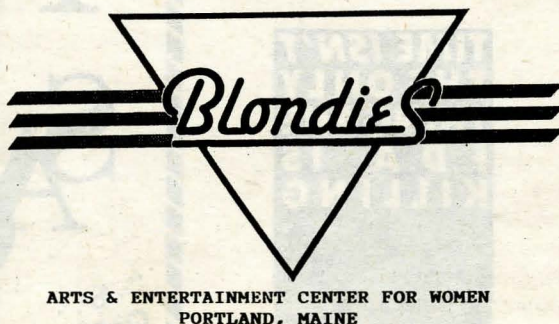
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MACAO OR BEYOND THE SEA	Mar. 12 - 14
HAMLET	Mar. 15 - 21
ALLEGRO NON TROPPO	Mar. 16 & 17
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1-2G/L HOUSEMATES WANTED - nonsmoking - to share 3 bedroom house near Bowdoin College. \$300-550/mo plus utils. Negotiable. Pet okay. W/D & computer avail. Deb, 725-7773/

20 - FEMALE PERSONALS

******ATTENTION BOXHOLDERS #778, #779, AND #802A****** We need updated information on you so we can forward your mail!! Please call 761-0733 or write OUR PAPER, PO Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

DO YOU SKI? GWF (in a relationship) needs a downhill ski "buddy". I am available some weekdays and weekend days. Prefer Shawnee Peak area. Call 8-10 pm. or early am, 646-7787. (P3)

WANTED: a woman who knows how to play w/ grown-ups and be serious w/children; who enjoys people, yet is comfortable enough w/ herself to value solitude. Let's start by becoming friends. PO Box 451, Kennebunkport, ME 04046.

LESBIAN COUPLES SOUGHT TO COMPLETE AN ANONYMOUS QUESTIONNAIRE focused on broadening understanding and recognition of Lesbian relationships. Please call or write Majorie Ulin, 581-3129, School of Human Development and Family Relations, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469.

21 - MALE PERSONALS

******ATTENTION BOXHOLDERS #778, #779, AND #802A****** We need updated information on you so we can forward your mail!!! Call 761-0733 or write OUR PAPER, PO Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

GWM DUNGEONMASTER, late 40's, sane, serious, experienced, into medium to heavy SM/BD training sessions seeks younger trim masculine GM for hot times. Roger, P.O. Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073 (serious only). (P3)

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GWM, 30, 6'0" BLOND SEEKS GWM 18-25 for friendship, possible more. Enjoy outdoors, movies, the arts, etc. Not uptight; like to get wild. Send letter and/or photo to Advertiser #191, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

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HANDSOME, SEXY, HUNG GWM 30 6'4", 175lbs. Looking for normal guy 28-35 with sense of humor for fun and quiet times. Let's get together. Poss. relationship, HIV+. Write to Advertiser #301 c/o Our Paper, PO Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

24 - WANTED

WANTED: Used cassettes, 45's, and CD's - Any type of rock music. Cash paid for good quality music. Call John or Fay at (207) 772-1442.

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RAILROAD SQUARE CINEMA 13 Railroad Square, Waterville, ME 04901. (207) 873-6526. Call for schedule.

26 - FLORISTS

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32 - BOOKS/CARDS

GLAD DAY BOOKSHOP. Lesbian and Gay literature, 673 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 (617) 267-3010. Across from the Boston Public Library, 2nd floor. Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9:30 AM - 11:00 PM. Sundays: Noon - 9 PM.

NEW WORDS, a woman's bookstore, 186 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. (617) 876-5310. Open 10-6 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. 10-9 Thursday, and 12-6 on Sunday. Large selections of books, journals, cards, CS's Community Board bulletin boards newsletter available on request. Mail order services. All welcome to browse.

NEW LEAF BOOKS - Specializing in books by and about women, alternative health care and

spirituality. See our selection of gay and lesbian fiction and non-fiction. Open Monday-Saturday 10AM-5PM. 438 Main St., Rockland, ME 04841. (207) 596-0040.

THE CENTRE BOOKSTORE AND LEARNING CENTRE - Specializing in metaphysics, parapsychology, self-help, ESP, spiritual awareness, healing, meditation, new age music and literature. Open Tuesday - Sunday 9AM - 6PM. Elm St., Damariscotta. 563-2123.

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34 - NEWS AND INFORMATION

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ORAL HISTORY! Anti-gay violence report documents how homophobia hurts. George Bush signs the Hate Crimes Act protecting gays and lesbians. Audio cassettes, pix available. Send \$2.00 for catalog (applied to order) to John Zeh, 1455 Chapin St. NW, Washington, DC 20009-4510.

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A full-page view of a blank sheet of graph paper. The grid consists of small squares formed by thin black lines. There are approximately 20 columns and 18 rows of squares. A faint blue horizontal band runs across the middle of the page, likely from a scanner or binding artifact.

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continued from page 5

of a child is, but you always know who the mother is. A woman's physical responsibility in a single childbirth is roughly nine months. A man's is roughly four or five seconds. This crucial ability to nurture a new life into being, completely dependent upon the woman and critical to survival as a species, receives no respect.

Women's issues are viewed as women's crimes. With society as the victim. Maternity leave is discrimination against the men denied the same opportunity. The right to freedom of

choice concerning our bodies is a joke. All women choosing abortions—no matter what the reasons—are murderers and should be sent to prison. What about the father? Rape victims are guilty of contributory negligence and entrapment of some poor man who was pushed beyond a reasonable limit. Premenstrual syndrome is just an excuse for gaining weight and being a pain.

This is 1991 and yet I have heard doctors make statements like, "well, we really don't know much yet about that area of a woman," while pointing vaguely toward my navel. Two days later I will read in Newsweek of a breakthrough in medical science due to the dedicated efforts of top scientists from twelve countries working around the clock for fourteen years. The project, which only cost \$329 million dollars, has locked onto a new pseudo-hormone. Manufactured from the leaves of a plant found only in Borneo, regular injections to the lower left earlobe have shown significant quality-of-life-improving results for the .04% of the male population having trouble maintaining an erection during a full moon.

Occasionally I take a walk around the mirrored box. I stand very still in one location, hoping that my image—the image of a free woman—will pass through the two-way mirrors into the eyes of another woman searching the mirrors and looking within—to find a way out.

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PATRICIA SMITH, RN, C. Psychiatric Counselor. Individuals, couples, groups, cancer counseling. Relaxation and imagery - Writing as a healing journey. The Center for Health and Healing: a holistic group of independent practitioners. 17 Masonic St., Rockland, ME 04841. (207) 594-0752.

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Meetings --

NOTE TO OUR PAPER READERS: If information on this page is incorrect please call or write us so we can correct it for next month.

SUNDAYS

OUR PAPER organizational meeting on the first Sunday of every month at 6:30 PM at 9 Deering St., Portland. (Enter rear door) New volunteers welcome.

BATES GAY/ LESBIAN/ BISEXUAL/ STRAIGHT ALLIANCE for discussion, support, and planning, meets every Sunday, 8:30 PM in Hirasawa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE meets the third Sunday of every month at All Souls Church, 11 King St., Augusta, from 2 to 5 PM.

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD meets the last Sunday of the month. Business meeting is at 1:00 PM followed by potluck. Call (207) 498-2088 for information. Caribou area.

TRANSUPPORT peer support group for Transsexuals, cross-dressers, and their families and friends who desire a better understanding of gender related issues. Meets bi-monthly at 6:00 PM. Write to P.O. Box 17622, Portland, Maine 04011-0000 for more information and meeting locations.

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK meets the second Sunday of the month for a Lesbian Potluck Brunch from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the Peace and Justice Center, 9 Central Street, Room 302, Bangor. Call (207) 862-5907 or (207) 866-7958 for information.

DIGNITY/BANGOR (LESBIAN/GAY CATHOLICS AND FRIENDS) meets second and fourth Sundays of each month at the Chapel, Ruth Hutchins Center, Bangor Theological Seminary, 300 Union Street, Bangor. Doors open at 6:00 PM, worship at 6:15 PM followed by a business social.

DIGNITY/MAINE (LESBIAN/GAY CATHOLICS AND FRIENDS) meets every Sunday at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress Street, Portland. Doors open at 5:30 PM, worship at 6:00 PM followed by a social. Please use rear entrance.

LESBIAN ACOA (ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS) meets weekly from 7:00-8:00 PM at YWCA, 87 Spring Street, Portland, Maine. All women welcome.

GAY IN SOBRIETY (AA) meets on Sundays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Williston West Church, 32 Thomas Street, Portland. Speakers meeting, Non-smoking.

MONDAYS

ACT-UP MAINE meets weekly at 7 PM at the People's Building, 155 Brackett St., Portland. For more information call (207) 774-5082.

SEACOAST GAY MEN meets most Mondays at 7 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, N.H. Call Al at (603) 898-1115.

FEMINIST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY meets every Monday from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Friends and Quakers Meeting House, Forest Ave., Portland. For more information call (207) 773-2294.

PFLAG (PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS) meets the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the All Souls Church, Unitarian Universalist, 11 King Street, Augusta, Maine. For more information call (207) 623-2349.

BUILDING A MORE POSITIVE GAY IDENTITY, a support group for gay men, dealing with issues of coming out as an ongoing process, self-esteem, social pressures, relationships and personal growth. Monday mornings from 10:30 AM - NOON, or Tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 7:00 PM in Portland. To apply, phone (207) 772-1307.

THE BRIDGE AT COLBY, Colby College, Waterville, Maine, 04901. Connecting Lesbian,

Gay, Bisexual, and Straight communities. Meetings held every other Monday night at 7:30 PM in the Bridge Room. 24 hour information Phoneline (207) 873-3536. For more information write or contact Mark at (207) 877-7089, or leave a message on the phoneline.

DOWNEAST INTEGRITY CHAPTER-INFORMATION, meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at St. Saviour's Episcopal Church, Bar Harbor. Eucharist, pot luck supper and discussion. All are welcome. For further information write the Rev. Fr. Edwin A. Garrett, III, Hon. Asst., St. Saviour's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 355 (or c/o St. Saviour's Church) Bar Harbor, ME 04609, or phone 207-288-5362.

AIDS SUPPORT GROUP meets in Skowhegan at the Key Bank on Madison Ave. on the second Monday of every month.

DOWN EAST AIDS NETWORK support group in Ellsworth meets Mondays at 7:00 PM. Led by Clinical Social Worker Carole Pascal, the group is open to all people affected by AIDS. Call (207) 326-8580 for location.

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP, meets every Monday evening from 7:00PM - 8:30PM at the Mexico Congregational Church (the "Green Church"). Ron Ashworth, Facilitator. For more information, call (207) 369-0259.

BELFAST AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP for PWA's, HIV positive, family, friends and caregivers meets on Mondays. For more information, call the Waldo County AIDS Coalition at (207) 338-1427 or Alan at (207) 548-2929.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS (ACOA) meets for open discussion with a focus on Gay/Lesbian issues from 7:00 - 8:30 PM on Mondays at YWCA, 87 Spring Street, Portland.

TUESDAYS

MID-COAST PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM, First Parish Pilgrim House, 9 Cleveland Street, Brunswick, ME. Call Sally or Gene at (207) 729-0519 or Effie at 623-2349.

OUR PAPER office is open to the public every Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:00 PM. New volunteers are always welcome. **WE NEED HELP!** Stop by at our office at 9 Deering Street in Portland. Call (207) 761-0733 for more information.

LESBIAN AND GAY FREEDOM TRAIL BAND meets every Tuesday at 7:15 PM at the YWCA, 7th floor, 120 Clarendon Street, Boston. Contact Kathy at (617) 424-7025, Gary at (617) 267-6186, or Zoe at (508) 264-9085 for more information.

COLLEGE LESBIAN WOMYN'S RAP GROUP meets weekly on Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:00 PM, 92 Bedford Street, Portland (USM Campus). Bisexuals welcome. Call (207) 874-6796 for more information.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE B-GLAD, BISEXUAL/ GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE FOR DIVERSITY meets at 9:00 PM on Tuesday nights in Hubbard Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. For more information call Kristin at (207) 725-3620.

FAMILIES OF GAYS SUPPORT GROUP meets second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in Portland. Meetings are informal and focus on family and relationship issues. For more information call Ingraham Volunteers at (207) 774-HELP.

GREATER PORTLAND NOW meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 7:30 - 9:00 PM at the YWCA, 87 Spring Street, Portland, Maine. For more information call Jennifer Halm-Perzone at (207) 871-0618 or write P.O. Box 4012, Portland, Maine 04101.

GRIEVING SUPPORT GROUP, for bereaved persons healing from the death of a loved one, meets in Portland on Tuesday Evenings from 7:00PM - 8:30PM. Call Kristine Watson, M.A., at (207) 775-0366. **DONATIONS.**

GAY IN SOBRIETY (AA) meets weekly on Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:00 PM, beginners meeting. Also meets from 7:30 - 8:30 PM on Tues-

day, Speaker/Discussion meeting. Both meeting at the Williston West Church, 32 Thomas Street, Portland.

LESBIAN ACOA (ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS) SUPPORT GROUP meets weekly on Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2nd floor Annex, 15 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, Maine. Non-smoking meeting. All women welcome.

WEDNESDAYS

LIFESTYLES ALLIANCE CLUB meets weekly on Wednesdays from 12:00 - 1:00 PM on the UNE Campus. Location can be obtained by calling 283-0171 and asking for the Student Affairs Office.

COLBY COLLEGE BISEXUAL/LESBIAN/ GAY COMMUNITY meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM at Mary Low Coffeehouse, Colby College, Waterville, Maine.

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays of the month at the Peace and Justice Center, 9 Central Street, Room 203, Bangor. Call (207) 827-3107 for more information.

AUGUSTA AREA HIV+SUPPORT GROUP meets at the offices of Dr. Karen Kalustian of the Gardiner Family Physician, 152 Dresden Ave., Gardiner. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. For more information call Cecilia Leland at (207) 371-2147 or Steve Fleming at (207) 777-1701.

GAYS AND LESBIANS UNITED meets the last Wednesday of each month at the Sanford Unitarian Church on the corner of Lebanon Street (Route 202) and Main Street (Route 109) in Sanford, Maine. All welcome. Call (207) 439-5540 for details.

COLLEGE GAY MEN'S AND LESBIAN WOMYN'S RAP GROUP meets weekly on Wednesday at 92 Bedford Street, Portland (USM Campus) from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Bisexuals welcome. Call (207) 874-6796 for more information.

AIDS SUPPORT GROUP for family and friends of people with AIDS or HIV+, sponsored by the Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services (MASS), meets weekly on Wednesday from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at Beacon House (Corner of Beacon and Washington Streets - North End) Bath. For more information call (207) 725-4955. Group will be facilitated by Vicki Woods.

GAY AND LESBIAN ACOA meets Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM at the St. Matthews Rectory, Union Street, Hallowell.

GAY AND LESBIAN AL-ANON meets Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 PM at the Williston West Church, 32 Thomas Street, Portland.

THURSDAYS

OUT AND ABOUT, A LESBIAN SOCIAL AND SUPPORT GROUP, meets every Thursday at 7 PM in Portsmouth, N.H. New members welcome. For more information call Keryn at (603) 749-5852, or write P.O. Box 695, Cape Neddick, Maine 03902

ALLIANCE OF SEACOAST GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH meets Thursday nights from 7:00 - 9:00 PM at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Portsmouth (South Church), State Street, Portsmouth, NH, in the basement. For Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and those questioning their sexuality, ages 16 thru 24.

ADULT WOMEN SURVIVORS OF RAPE SUPPORT GROUP is being offered by the Rape Crisis Center in Portland. Group is free and confidential and child care is provided. Oct. 4 - Dec. 16, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Call collect at (207) 774-3613 for more information and to set up an interview.

GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON meet weekly on Thursdays for discussions and socializing. The group warmly welcomes new people. For more information write to Marla

Stickie, UMF Center for Human Development, 7 South Street, Farmington, Maine 04938-0000 or call (207) 778-3501 Ext. 336.

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK (EMAN) meets every Thursday in Bangor. Call (207) 990-EMAN or write to EMAN, P.O. Box 2038, Bangor, Maine 04401-2038.

DOWN EAST AIDS NETWORK holds a healing circle for all affected by AIDS. Second and fourth Thursdays, from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. For more information call (207) 326-8580. Blue Hill area.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN WITH AIDS, ARC OR WHO ARE HIV+ meets weekly on Thursday at The AIDS Project from 10:30 AM - Noon at 22 Monument Square, 5th floor, Portland, Maine. For more information, or if you are in need of day care, please call Diane or Toby at (207) 774-6877.

AIDS SUPPORT GROUP for people with AIDS or who are HIV+ sponsored by Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services (MASS) meets on Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:30 PM at CHANS, 50 Baribeau Drive, Brunswick, Maine. For more information call (207) 725-4955. Group will be facilitated by Steve Record and Jonathan Appleyard.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS (ACOA) meets on Thursdays from 5:30 - 7:00 PM at the YWCA, 87 Spring Street, Portland.

LIVE AND LET LIVE GROUP (AA), Big book/step meeting weekly on Thursdays from 8:00 - 9:00 PM at the Williston West Church, 32 Thomas Street, Portland.

LESBIAN/GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA) discussion group meets weekly on Thursday at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Main Street, Bangor. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

FRIDAYS

OUTRIGHT Portland Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (22 years of age and younger) meets weekly on Fridays at 7:30 PM at Preble Street Chapel, 331 Cumberland Ave., Portland.

LIFESTYLES ALLIANCE CLUB meets weekly on Fridays at NOON on the UNE campus. Location can be obtained by calling (207) 283-0171, ask for Barbara Hazard.

LESBIANS IN SOBRIETY (AA) open meeting is held on Fridays from 7:00 - 8:00 PM at the Williston West Church, 32 Thomas Street, Portland, Maine.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS (AA) meets weekly on Fridays from 8:00 - 9:30 PM - Gays Together in Sobriety - Open Discussion - Christ Episcopal Church, 80 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H.

SATURDAYS

PRIME TIMERS OF BOSTON, an organization for older Gay males, meets the third Saturday of every month from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at the Lindemann Health Center, 25 Staniford Street, in Downtown Boston. See Calendar Section for any changes in location.

THE GAY 90's, a men's group for the Waldo County area meets one Saturday night of the month for a social gathering. For information contact Paul S. Doolan at (207) 342-5886 or write to RR #1 Box 560, Morrill, Maine 04952-0000

OTHER MEETINGS

SHORELINE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES presents a new weekly therapy group for gay and lesbian persons age 21 and over. Group issues may include exploring one's gay or lesbian identity with self, family, and community; dealing with internal and external homophobia; exploring relationship issues, religious issues, career issues, and other issues of concern to group members. The group will meet in the Bath office (100 High Street) for 15 weekly 1 1/2 hour sessions beginning in the Fall of 1990. Interested persons should contact Jim Talbot or Karen Ludwig at Shoreline for more information. Phone (207) 729-4171 or 1-800-834-4673.

LesBiGay Network --

THE AIDS PROJECT

22 Monument Square - 5th floor
Portland, Maine 04101-0000
(207) 774-6877

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS (ACOA) YWCA

87 Spring Street
Portland, Maine 04101-0000
Weekly open discussion with focus on Gay/Lesbian issues.

AIDS LINE

(207) 775-1267 or
(800) 851-AIDS
Hours as follows:
Monday & Wednesday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Friday: 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

AM CHOFSHI

Am Chofshi (Hebrew for "A Free People"), Maine's Jewish Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual chavrah, meets monthly to share Jewish holidays and to build community. For more information, call Bob (207) 871-1014.

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION (AVAC)

P.O. Box 7977
Lewiston, Maine 04240-7977
(207) 795-4019

Non-profit organization with the following goals: to provide community education about AIDS/HIV; to coordinate and support community-based services to people living with AIDS/HIV, their families and significant others; to assess AIDS needs in our communities and to provide a unified front on AIDS needs and issues; and to provide a forum for the exchange of support, professional skills, and technical resources. We have been meeting regularly at the Tri-County Chapter of the Red Cross in Auburn since late 1988, and welcome all interested parties to attend our meetings. For more information write or call.

BATES COLLEGE GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL/STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

For more information write:
Box 77
Bates College
Lewiston, Maine 04240
Group meets Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM in Hirasawa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College.

BATH MEN'S GROUP

Meets weekly for fun, fellowship, and good food. For more information, call (207) 443-1211. All welcome.

BELFAST AREA AIDS GROUP

for PWA's, HIV+, family, friends and caregivers. Call the Waldo County Aids Coalition at (207) 338-1427, or Alan at (207) 548-2929 (evenings or weekends). Meets on Mondays.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE BISEXUAL/GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE FOR DIVERSITY (B-GLAD)

Moulton Union Information Desk
Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Maine 04011
Group meets on Tuesday evenings.

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH (CCDH)

813 Washington Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
(207) 874-1025
CCDH is a non-profit, United Way agency dedicated to providing exceptional dental care to every individual in the community. Fees are on a sliding scale based on the individuals income level. Clinics are located in Portland, Saco, and Auburn, Maine. Please call for more information.

COLBY COLLEGE BISEXUAL/LESBIAN/GAY COMMUNITY

c/o Student Activities Office
Colby College
Waterville, Maine 04901-0000
Informational phoneline second and fourth Wednesday of every month (207) 873-3536. For more information call Mark (207) 872-3683 or Al (207) 872-3000. The CCBLGC serves members of the Colby and Waterville communities as both a social and political medium. Promoting community awareness and knowledge, the CCBLGC maintains safe and comfortable atmosphere for bisexuals, lesbians, and gays. Group meets on Monday evenings.

DIGNITY/MAINE

P.O. Box 8113
Portland, Maine 04104-8113
Organization of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends. Organized to re-inforce our self-acceptance and dignity as people of God, to develop leadership, and to be an instrument through which gay and lesbian Catholics may be heard by the church and society. Group meets on Monday evenings.

DOWN EAST AIDS NETWORK (DEAN)

P.O. Box 779
Blue Hill, Maine 04614-0000
(207) 326-8580
A community based grassroots organization. We provide community education and support services for those affected by AIDS. DEAN is a gay positive organization support group for HIV+, family, friends, and those at risk. Meets Tuesdays. For more information call Tracy for more information.

DOWNEAST INTEGRITY CHAPTER-IN-FORMATION

C/O Rev Fr. Edwin A. Garrett, III
St. Saviour's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 355
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609
(207) 288-5362
Meets second Monday of the month at St. Saviour's Church. Please call for more information.

EASTERN MAINE AIDS NETWORK (EMAN)

P.O. Box 2038
Bangor, Maine 04401-2038
(207) 990-EMAN
Provides case management services to HIV-infected people and their families in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Hancock, Washington, and Aroostook counties. Support group meets every Thursday evening in Bangor. In addition, EMAN staff are available to provide educational presentations within the same five county area.

FEMINIST SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

9 Deering Street
P.O. Box 3771
Portland, Maine 04104-3771
(207) 773-2294
Meets on Monday evenings.
GAY/LESBIAN CONTRA DANCERS
69 Mountain View Avenue
Bangor, Maine 04401-0000
(207) 947-2329

GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

Portland, Maine
(207) 780-4085
(207) 772-4741
GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE
The Powers House
88 Winslow Street
Portland, Maine 04103-0000
(207) 874-6596

GAY/LESBIAN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

C/O Williston West Church
32 Thomas Street
Portland, Maine 04102-0000
Meets Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK

P.O. Box 212
Bangor, Maine 04401-0000
(207) 862-5907
(207) 866-7958
Meets Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

HARBOR MASTORS, INC.

P.O. Box 4044
Portland, Maine 04101-0000
INTEGRITY
St. Matthew's Church
18 Union Street
Hallowell, Maine 04347-0000
(207) 623-3041
(207) 845-2985
Lesbian and Gay Episcopalans and their friends. It is a family within the church, a place to find close community and support. It offers an opportunity to find growth, education, and prayer.

LESBIAN AND GAY FREEDOM TRAIL BAND

C/O YWCA - 7th floor
120 Clarendon Street
Boston, Mass.
(617) 424-7025 [Kathy]
(617) 267-6186 [Gary]
(598) 264-9085 [Zoe]
Meets Tuesday evenings.

LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE

Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
P.O. Box 5112 - Station A
Portland, Maine 04102-5112

LIFESTYLES ALLIANCE CLUB

University of New England Campus
Biddeford, Maine
(207) 283-0171
Advisors: Barbara Hazard and Vern Patterson
An organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and straight persons. Our organization began in the spring of 1989 out of concern that there was no organization on campus that dealt with differently sexual preferences. We currently have students from the various colleges including OT, PT, Medical Students, MSW, and undergraduate students. Our primary goals include support and educating others about alternative lifestyles. All persons are welcome to attend or call to find out more about our organization.
Group meets Friday afternoon.

Maine Connection

P.O. Box 5145 - Station A
Portland, Maine 04102-5245

Mountain Valley Men (MVM)

P.O. Box 36
Center Conway, NH 03813-0036
(207) 925-1034 (Paul)
A social group for gay men from western Maine and eastern New Hampshire. We meet at each others' homes for Pot Luck and plan activities as the members desire. Write or call for more information.

Maine Bisexual People's Network

P.O. Box 1792
Portland, Maine 04104-1792
Call the Gay/Lesbian Alliance at (207) 874-6596 to leave a message.
Our purpose is to affirm in ourselves and others the positive nature of bisexuality and to work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian and straight communities.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance

P.O. Box 232
Hallowell, Maine 04347-0000

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services

P.O. Box 57
Brunswick, Maine 04011-0057
(207) 725-4955
Provides support services to PWA's those with HIV disease, and their family and friends. MASS also provides education services free of charge to the greater Bath/Brunswick community. MASS also has "buddies" available for PWA's and HIV+.

The Maine Health Foundation

P.O. Box 7329 DTS
Portland, Maine 04112-7329
A non-profit, tax-exempt organization that offers both direct and indirect financial support for people with AIDS (PWA's) in Maine. Our other concerns are the special health issues facing Maine's gay and lesbian communities, including gay youth. Please write for more information.

New Brunswick Coalition of Human Rights Reforms

P.O. Box 1556
Station A
Fredericton, New Brunswick
Canada
E3B 5G2

New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights

P.O. Box 756
Coontocook, NH 03329-0756
(603) 228-9009

Northern Lambda Nord

P.O. Box 990
Caribou, Maine 04736-0990
Gay/Lesbian Phoneline: (207) 498-2088

Greater Portland Chapter of the National Organization of Women

c/o YWCA
87 Spring Street
Portland, Maine 04101-0000
(207) 879-0877 (Perry Krasow)
An action-oriented group. Our primary goals are three-fold: [1] to foster Equal Rights for women; [2] to insure unrestricted choice around reproductive rights; [3] to support Lesbian and Gay rights. We have speakers and events for the public on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

Out and About

P.O. Box 695
Cape Neddick, ME 03902
Keryn at (603) 749-5852
Out and About, a lesbian social and support group, meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. in Portsmouth, NH. New members welcome. Call Keryn at (603) 749-5852 or write P.O. Box 695, Cape Neddick, ME 03902 for more information.

Our Paper

9 Deering Street
P.O. Box 10744
Portland, Maine 04104
(207) 761-0733
Our purpose is to serve as a voice for the lesbians and gay men in Maine. We are made up of a group of dedicated volunteers who wish to broaden the understanding of our lifestyles and of each other. All new volunteers welcome.

OUTRIGHT

P.O. Box 5028 Station A
Portland, Maine 04102-5028
Portland Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth. Are you gay and under 22 years of age? For more information, call Ingraham Volunteers. Dial information: (207) 774-HELP (a 24 hour hotline) or if your 18 and under, you can also call Dial-KIDS: (207) 774-TALK. Call now for more information concerning support, special events and fun!

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (PFLAG)

P.O. Box 2080
Great Island,
Brunswick, ME 04011
(207) 725-4769
(207) 729-0519/623-2349

Portland Pride

P.O. Box 681
Scarborough, Maine 04074-0681

Prime Timers of Boston

c/o D. Bourbeau
604 Tremont Street
Boston, Maine 02118-1605
An organization for older gay males that meet monthly on the third Saturday of every month from 2 to 4 PM. See calendar section for changes in location and schedule (if any).

PWA Coalition of Maine

377 Cumberland Avenue
Portland, Maine 04101-0000
(207) 773-8500

R.A.G. (RURAL ACTIVITIES GUIDE)

P.O. Box 3293
North Conway, NH 03860
603-447-2395
A quarterly newsletter for the women's community of western Maine and the Mount Washington Valley of New Hampshire. Monthly potluck dinners, seasonal dances and various other activities. Subscription is \$12.00 per year, first issue free.

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

c/o Community Aids Awareness Program
(207) 369-0259
Group meets Monday evenings at the Mexico Congregational Church (the "Green Church") from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

Seacoast Gay Men (SGM, Inc.)

P.O. Box 1394
Portsmouth, NH 03801-1394
(603) 898-1115 [Al]
A social group for gay men meeting weekly on Monday evenings at 7 PM (excepting Holidays). The first Monday of the month is a potluck supper. Remaining Monday's are given to a wide variety of presentations, discussions, films, etc.

TRANSUPPORT

P.O. Box 17622
Portland, Maine 04101-0000
Transupport is a non-profit, non-sexual, social and educational peer support group for Transsexuals, cross-dressers, and their families and friends who desire a better understanding of gender-related issues. Meetings are held bi-monthly on Sundays at 6:00 PM. Write for location and more information.

USM Women's Forum

University of Southern Maine
92 Bedford Street
Portland, Maine 04103-0000

Wilde-Stein Club

Memorial Union
University of Maine - Orono
Orono, Maine 04469-0000

Waldo County AIDS Education Committee

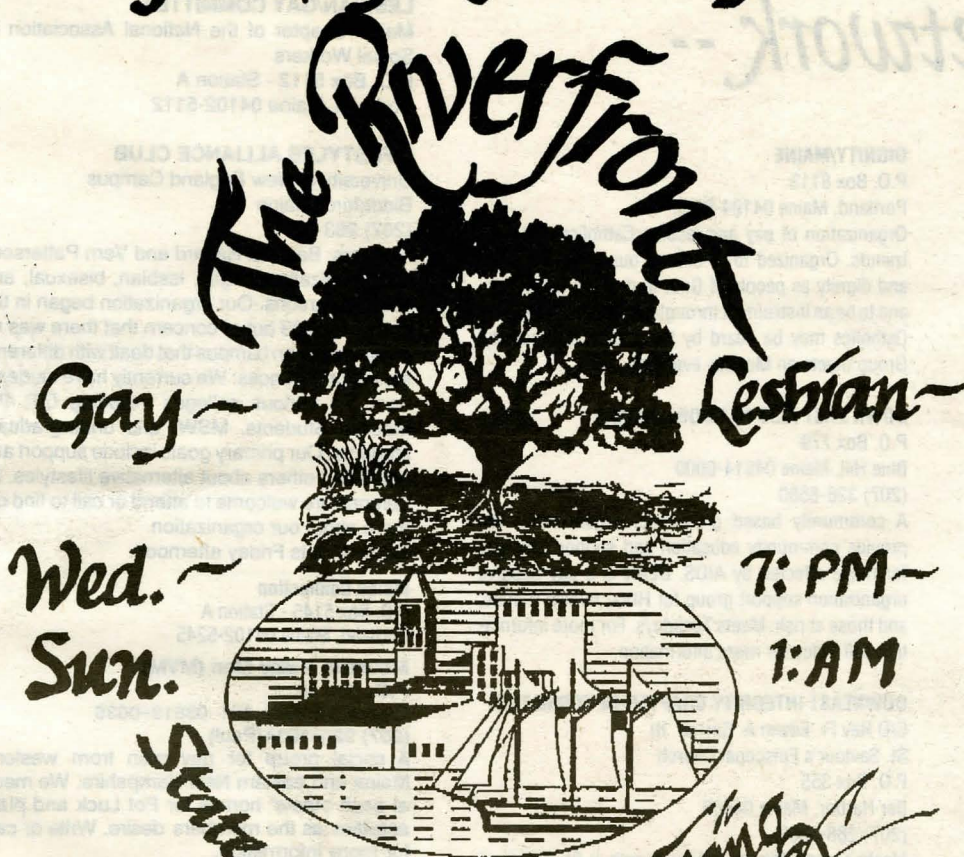
P.O. Box 772
Belfast, Maine 04915-0772
(207) 338-1427
Provide AIDS education for the greater community, schools, businesses, as well as a gay positive support group for PWA's, HIV positive, family, friends and caregivers. For more information, please call.

WOMLAND Trust Inc.

P.O. Box 55
Troy, Maine 04987-0055
A non-profit organization whose purpose is to acquire land throughout the state to protect it for use by current and future generations of women and children. Meetings Second Sunday every month. Location varies

Bangor's Gay-Lesbian Nightclub

Starting March 13th
Country Music
every Wednesday



Sunday, March 17
St. Patrick's Day Bash
Your Pot O'Gold for Fun is
at the Riverfront
Party Favors
Six-months Free Admission
for Best Dressed Leprechaun

Friday, March 29th
Beach Party
Limbo Contest
Prizes for Best Beach Wear
Wet Jockey Shorts Contest
for the Men
Wet T-Shirt Contest
for the Women
Tropical Drink Specials All Night

Sunday, April 14th
7:00 p.m. - Midnite
The Riverfront presents
Casino Night
to benefit
Downeast and Eastern Maine
AIDS Networks
Cash and Other Prizes

123 Franklin St
Bangor, ME 04461
Telephone: 947-1213

Come join us at

PAPA JOE'S

207-623-4041

The place for Texas Two Steppin'

80 Water Street
Augusta, Maine

We have no strangers --
only friends you haven't met.

TUESDAY-SATURDAY: 7-1

Chip & Dale's

Waterville
Maine

Chip & Dale's
Pine Tree
Square
Main Street
Waterville,
Maine
207-873-5610

Directions: **Open 7 Days A Week**

95 to Exit 34, across
from Elm Plaza in
the Pine Tree Square
Shopping Center
(formerly Uptown
Lounge)

8 pm - 1 am

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE: THU, FRI, SAT, SUN